

Wright State University

CORE Scholar

Wright State University Brochures

University Archives

January 1979

Early Childhood Education Center

Wright State University

Follow this and additional works at: https://corescholar.libraries.wright.edu/archives_wsu_brochures

Repository Citation

Wright State University (1979). *Early Childhood Education Center*. : Wright State University.

This Brochure is brought to you for free and open access by the University Archives at CORE Scholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in Wright State University Brochures by an authorized administrator of CORE Scholar. For more information, please contact library-corescholar@wright.edu.

**Wright State
University**

**College
of Education**

**Early Childhood
Education
Center**



The Wright State University Early Childhood Education Center

In an attractive, homelike setting on a wooded site on the Wright State campus, this laboratory school for children aged three to five years provides a unique first-school experience. Among its many features are these:

- fully licensed by State of Ohio
- staff of four graduate-level professionals
- low teacher-pupil ratio
- rich, child-centered curriculum
- individualization
- utilization of community resources
- parent-teacher conferences
- prekindergarten testing
- active parent group and activities
- mainstreaming of handicapped
- scholarships available

Early Childhood Education Center

Dr. Doris Dittmar
Coordinator

Telephone: 873-3114
Secretary: 873-2182

History

In 1973, Dr. Doris Dittmar came to Wright State University to develop the Early Childhood Education program. It is her strong belief that the training of teachers ought to include many firsthand experiences with young children. To this end, she founded a laboratory school in the Warner House on wooded land adjacent to the main campus. With a number of children and a very limited budget, the Early Childhood Education Center was launched. From those first classes in which children sat on the floor for lack of chairs, the program has grown and developed and is one in which the College of Education takes great pride.

Fully licensed by the State of Ohio, the center staff now consists of four graduate-level personnel. Equipment and furnishings have been added each year to achieve a functional, attractive physical environment both indoors and out. Combined with a rich and varied curriculum, the Early Childhood Education Center provides a uniquely stimulating first-school experience for children.

Philosophy

We believe that early childhood education comes at a time in a child's life when the child is physically and emotionally ready to explore the world with new people in new places, away from parents. It should be an extension of the caring and teaching experiences the child receives from birth.

Because children are individuals with unique patterns of growth and development, they need a child-centered, informal environment where they are free to start and free to stop; where teachers meet them at their own level; where warmth and wisdom are evident in qualified leadership.

Goals and Objectives

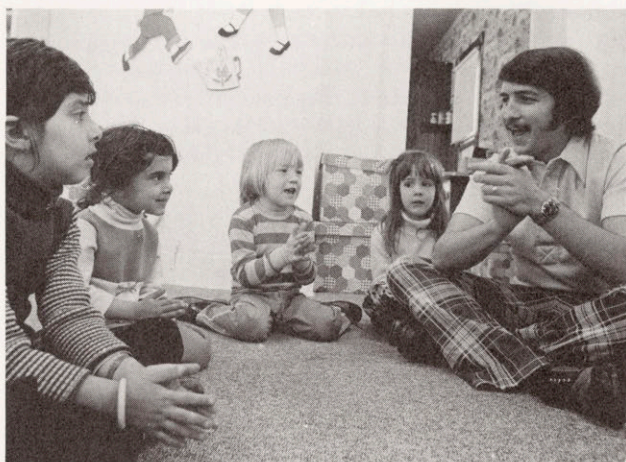
The primary goal of the Early Childhood Education Center is to provide Wright State University education students a laboratory setting where they can gain experiences with young children which lead to the acquisition of positive teaching skills. This is accomplished by

1. observing behaviors and growth of young children
2. observing both seasoned and other beginning teachers
3. actively participating in a broad range of teaching duties

Objectives for young children attending the center include helping them develop

1. **Socially**—by fostering rewarding relationships with other children and adults.
2. **Physically**—by encouraging the use of large and small muscles and exploring the relationship between his/her body and the things in the environment.
3. **Emotionally**—by providing a gradual transition from home to school; by learning to trust other children and adults; and by testing relationships with peers and surroundings in order to establish the self-image of a worthwhile person.

Wright State University Early Childhood Center affords children maximum opportunities to grow:
socially—intellectually—physically—emotionally



Staff

The Wright State University Early Childhood Education Center staff is one of the most highly trained of any child care facility in the area. The coordinator of Early Childhood Education, Dr. Doris Dittmar, an associate professor in the College of Education at Wright State University, holds a doctorate degree in Early Childhood Education and the head teacher holds a master's degree in early childhood education. Two Wright State University graduate teaching assistants complete the professional staff. Student assistants are hired as needed. It is impossible to assess the great warmth and enthusiasm generated by the many Wright State education majors doing their student participation, who the children also regard as teachers.

Program

The Early Childhood Education Center program provides children with nearly equal amounts of free and structured time. Thus, they learn to plan and carry through on their own, as well as to follow directions in a group setting. Weekly units of instruction are the basis of short, informal lessons featuring a wide variety of learning activities. During this time more advanced students are separated from less mature children so that activities can be adjusted to individual needs. The many rooms available at the center make such groupings ideal.

Close ties to the community are maintained by bringing in many resource persons. Parent participation is greatly valued and encouraged, and the center has an active parent group which hosts a fall open house, a winter family dinner, and a spring picnic, in addition to many other activities.

At the center, children are exposed to individual differences whenever possible. As an example, handicapped children were mainstreamed into the center's program long before it was mandated by law. The center enrolls children of many nationalities and races and is proud of its multicultural emphasis.

Evaluation

Parent-teacher conferences are scheduled during winter quarter and the staff is available, upon request, for additional conferences throughout the year. Besides sharing mutual concerns with staff, parents of children old enough for kindergarten entrance are shown results of informal testing procedures which provide some indication of a child's readiness for formal schooling.

Day-to-day evaluation of an informal type is an integral part of the program, and small problems are often solved through brief, on-the-spot sharing between staff and parents.

Entrance Requirements

Entering children should be three years of age by early fall, and toilet training should be completed. Children over five years by early fall will be accepted on an individual basis, as will handicapped children.

Immunization records and a signed physical exam report must be completed and returned along with release forms required by the university. These forms are available upon request at 873-2182.

Clothing

Sturdy, washable play clothes should be worn to school, and in cold weather, snowsuits, including boots and mittens, are a necessity. *All outer clothing should be labeled.* Outdoor play is included in each day's schedule unless temperature is below zero. The school has plenty of extra clothing on hand for accidents, and paint shirts are provided by the center.

It is requested that each family contribute a large roll of paper towels and a box of tissues.

Carpools

The staff will assist parents in identifying other families with whom they might form a carpool.



Hours and Daily Schedule

The morning session begins at 9 am and ends at 11:30 am. Children may arrive between 8:45 (no earlier, please) and 9. Children may be picked up between 11:15 and 11:30. Late pick up is strongly discouraged because it interferes with planning and preparation time for the afternoon group.

The afternoon session begins at 12:30 and ends at 3 pm. Children may arrive between 12:15 (no earlier please) and 12:30. Children may be picked up between 2:45 and 3.

We ask that parents cooperate in seeing that teachers have uninterrupted time before and after school for planning, and also that the staff lunch hour (11:30-12:15) be respected. The center staff must be notified in advance if an emergency will cause late pick up of children.

Tuition

Tuition is payable quarterly and parents may remit in two installments. The current charge is \$150 per quarter. A few scholarships are available for families who show need. Scholarship application forms are available upon request.

School Calendar and Closings

The Early Childhood Education Center follows the university calendar. Although each quarter is ten weeks, in fall and winter quarters, extra days are allotted for orientation and school closings due to inclement weather. A monthly newsletter informs families of regularly scheduled closings in advance. When in doubt, parents are advised to listen to radio station WHIO which will broadcast the closing of the center due to weather conditions.

Illness

Since preschoolers are extremely vulnerable to communicable diseases, children exhibiting any signs of illness, such as fever, sore throat, runny nose, ear and stomach ache, or intestinal disorders should remain at home until symptom-free for at least twenty-four hours.

**Wright State
University**

**Early Childhood
Education Center
Application**

Name of child _____

Sex _____ Birthdate _____

Name of parent _____

Complete mailing address _____

City _____ Zip _____

Telephone _____

Quarter of enrollment: Fall ☐ Winter ☐ Spring ☐

Special needs of child _____

☐ Please send me a scholarship application

Notification of your child's acceptance in the program will
be made by mail.

Place
stamp
here

Dr. Doris Dittmar
Coordinator, Early Childhood Education
Wright State University
W494A Millett Hall
Dayton, Ohio 45435

